

Mr. Sullivan is an assiduous worker, and his professionalism, dedication, outstanding initiative and resourcefulness have been recognized on multiple occasions. He has been awarded more than 30 performance awards, including the Social Security Administration Regional Commissioners Citation, the Social Security Commissioner's Team Award and Biltmore's Who's Who of American Empowering Executives and Professionals.

In addition to his tireless work with the Social Security Administration, Mr. Sullivan is actively involved in his Church and local community. He has served on the St. Anne's Catholic Church Parish Council, as well as its Finance Council. Mr. Sullivan has also volunteered for more than 25 years with the Boy Scouts of America, where he is currently the Vice President of Programs Gulf Coast Council, and numerous scouts in his troop, including three of his sons, have gone on to become Eagle Scouts.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress it is my honor to recognize Mr. John Sullivan for his dedicated career as a public servant and thank him for his service to Northwest Florida. My wife Vicki and I wish Mr. Sullivan, his wife Jennie, and his sons—Richard, John, Matthew, Michael and Taylor—all the best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, due to the death of a close friend, I was absent from the House on Thursday, December 15th and Friday, December 16th. Had I been present, I would have recorded the following votes:

Rollcall 933—aye;
Rollcall 934—aye;
Rollcall 935—aye;
Rollcall 936—aye;
Rollcall 937—aye;
Rollcall 938—aye;
Rollcall 939—aye;
Rollcall 940—aye;
Rollcall 941—aye;
Rollcall 942—aye;
Rollcall 943—no.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, due to a personal family matter on December 15, 2011, I was absent from votes. As such, I am submitting these remarks to indicate how I would have voted if I were here: I would have voted No on the Journal Vote, and Yes on H.R. 886, H.R. 2719, and H.R. 443.

RECOGNIZING THE WEST SPRINGFIELD DANCE TEAM ON THEIR TREMENDOUS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the West Springfield Dance Team for their incredible run on the nationally televised show, "America's Got Talent". The West Springfield Dance Team progressed to the semi-finals with their professional grade choreography, distinct style, and superb dancing talents.

Under the tutelage of their coaches, renowned choreographers Tara Perez and Jason King, and with the full support of the West Springfield High School community, including principal Mark Greenfelder and Director of Student Activities Andy Muir, the West Springfield Dance Team has received numerous awards and recognitions including back-to-back Championship titles from the National Dance Alliance, including the "Innovative Choreography" and "Best in Category" awards. West Springfield Dance Team has distinguished itself as the dominant team in local and national competitive dance, and it is now a national celebrity for its run on "America's Got Talent" and a recent appearance on "The View" Halloween episode.

Their eye-popping performances were a delight to watch, and these young people served as tremendous ambassadors not only on behalf of their dance team, but also their school, their families and our community. They and their families should be proud of these accomplishments. I know we are, and I want to congratulate the following members of the West Springfield Dance Team for their many successes in the area of competitive dance, their achievements on "America's Got Talent", and recent appearance on "The View":

WS Dance Team 2010–2011 (performers on "America's Got Talent"): Chelsea Kopf and Julian Asuncion

WS Dance Team 2010–2011 and 2011–2012 (performers on "America's Got Talent", and "The View"): Emily Barnes, Dori Shapiro, Katie Lee, Riley O'Rourke, Nicole Mobley, Breezy Thompson, Sarah Thompson, Kristen Toler, Natalie Wawrzeniak, Jordan Penrod, Hannah Ernst, Jordan Dey, Nicky Ditnoy, and May Ditnoy

WS Dance Team 2011–2012 (performers on "The View"): Ellen Abood, Madeline Diez, Victoria Diez, Brianna Burns, Lauren Rader, Danny Lora, and Collin Hensley

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the West Springfield Dance Team on their many accomplishments and awards and for making it into the semi-finals of "America's Got Talent." I thank the team's coaches, Tara Perez and Jason King, Principal Mark Greenfelder, Director of Student Activities Andy Muir, and the entire West Springfield High School community for their robust support of these exceptional students.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. HOUSE SERGEANT AT ARMS WILSON "BILL" LIVINGOOD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a man who may not be a household name in most American towns and cities but who, over the past two decades, has become an integral part of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Honorable Wilson "Bill" Livingood, our outstanding Sergeant at Arms, who will be retiring next month.

Known around the Capitol as the "protector" and "keeper of the House," Bill Livingood has etched his name in the history books for serving the third longest term as Sergeant at Arms of the U.S. House of Representatives. To most Americans, he is the man—and the voice—who for 15 seconds every year announces at the beginning of the annual State of the Union address, "Mr. Speaker, The President of the United States."

Bill was first sworn in as House Sergeant at Arms by Speaker Newt Gingrich on January 4, 1995. He is only the thirty-sixth person to hold this post since the House of Representatives first met in New York City in 1789.

Bill Livingood's remarkable record of public service is even more noteworthy because of the unique experience he brought to the position. He was the first House Sergeant at Arms to possess considerable expertise in law enforcement, an asset that has served the House well during his tenure.

Prior to his appointment, he was Senior Advisor to the Director of the U.S. Secret Service from 1989 to 1995, and a Special Agent with the Secret Service for a total of 33 years. His background includes service on then-Vice President Lyndon Johnson's security detail, as well as spending more than a decade aboard Air Force One.

As an elected officer of the House of Representatives, the Sergeant at Arms is the chief law enforcement and protocol officer of the body, and is responsible for maintaining order on the House side of the United States Capitol complex.

The Sergeant at Arms reviews and implements all issues relating to the safety and security of Members of Congress and the Capitol complex. The Sergeant at Arms also coordinates extensively with the U.S. Capitol Police and various intelligence agencies to assess threats against Members of Congress and the Capitol complex.

Every visitor to the U.S. Capitol, whether it be the President of the United States, a foreign head of state or one of our youngest citizens, can roam safely around the vast Capitol complex because of Bill Livingood's professionalism, his dedication to duty and his considerable experience.

When this most recent chapter of American history is written, it will be noted that Bill served the House during some of the most challenging times in its history, including the 1998 shootings of two U.S. Capitol Police officers, the 9/11 attacks on our country, as well as the anthrax threats to Congress that came in the wake of the 2001 terror attacks. Make no mistake, House security has undergone significant improvements over the last decade